

Remarks

The Applicants have amended the Specification to place it into final form for allowance. Entry into the Official File is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 – 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful comments. Claim 13 has accordingly been amended to recite a white film for a reflecting structure for surface light sources. The white film comprises a film containing voids and a light stabilizer-containing coating layer formed on at least one surface of the white film. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has further been amended to recite that the coating layer comprises a copolymer of a resin component and at least 20% by weight, based on the weight of the copolymer, of a light stabilizer component that includes at least a hindered amine. Support may be found in the Applicants' Specification in the paragraph spanning pages 18 and 19, for example. Entry into the Official File is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 has also been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion to change the "sheet" to the "film" to provide appropriate antecedent basis. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 – 24 stand rejected over the hypothetical combination of newly cited Kamath with Miyakawa. The Applicants again note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments applying those two references to the above-mentioned claims. The Applicants nonetheless respectfully submit that hypothetically combining Kamath with Miyakawa fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of the rejected claims.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the hypothetical combination based on the substitution of the acrylic resin coating of Miyakawa with the acrylic resin coating with "chemically

attached light stabilizing group” from Kamath as set forth in the rejection would still fail to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter. In that regard, the Applicants invite the Examiner’s attention to Column 10 of Kamath, beginning at line 24, wherein the light stabilizer concentration is set forth. Kamath teaches that the range of light stabilizers should be about 0.0 to about 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the prepolymer. Kamath also teaches that the preferred amount should be 0.10 to about 10 parts by weight light stabilizer per 100 parts by weight of prepolymer. Kamath still further teaches that it is preferable to use about 0.50 to about 5.0 parts by weight of the light stabilizer per 100 parts by weight of acrylic prepolymer.

The upper end of the range of those teachings, when converted to percent by weight, is a little less than 17% by weight. In other words, Kamath teaches a range of 0 to about a little less than 17 weight percent of the light stabilizer in the acrylic prepolymer. This is sharply contrasted to the above claims that call for a copolymer of a resin component and at least 20% by weight, based on the weight of the copolymer, of the light stabilizer component. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to take the prepolymer in the coating of Kamath and substitute it for the copolymer in the coating of Miyakawa, the resulting prepolymer on the Miyakawa film would still have a maximum of less than 17% by weight, which is contrasted to the Applicants’ minimum of at least 20% by weight. Therefore, the hypothetical combination fails to teach or suggest the claimed amount of light stabilizer. This alone is sufficient to render Claims 13 – 24 patentable over the combination.

However, Kamath teaches those skilled in the art that the preferred amounts of light stabilizer are on the lower end of the 0 to less than 17% by weight range. Thus, even if one skilled in the art were to make further modifications beyond those taught by the Kamath/Miyakawa combination, one skilled in the art would be taught by Kamath to experiment at the lower end of the range, as opposed to the upper end of the range or even going beyond the upper end of the range. Hence, Kamath

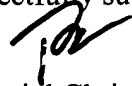
actually leads one skilled in the art away from the Applicants' claimed range of at least 20% by weight. This further reinforces the fact that the combination of Kamath by Miyakawa fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of Claims 13 – 24. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 – 17 and 23 – 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Kamath with Ishii. The rejection based on Kamath and Ishii is similar to that of the Miyakawa/Kamath rejection. The primary difference is with respect to the fact that Ishii teaches the coating layer further comprising further comprising inorganic fine particles. Nonetheless, Kamath is employed to provide the teachings of an acrylic resin with chemically attached light stabilizing groups to be substituted for the coatings of Ishii.

The result is that hypothetically combining Kamath with Ishii results in an Ishii product with the Kamath coating layer having less than 17% by weight of the light stabilizer. Therefore, the combination fails for the same reason as set forth above with respect to the Kamath/Miyakawa combination. Withdrawal of the rejection based on the combination of Kamath with Ishii is accordingly respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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